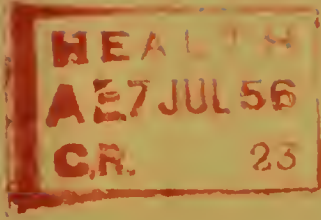
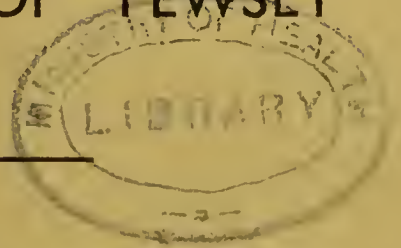


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RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1955.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 17,270. The excess of births over deaths during 1955 was 144 and the rate of natural increase is thus 8.3 per 1000 population. There were 294 (171 male and 123 female) live births which give a rate per 1000 population of 17.7 when corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 15.7 and that for England and Wales 15.0 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 150 deaths (71 male and 79 female) after correction for comparability was 9.5 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 11.7 and 10.4 per 1000 population.

The infant death rate (under one year of age) was 20.4 per 1000 live births, based on 294 such births and 6 infant deaths. The mean number of live-births and infant deaths during the period 1946-1955 gives an average infant death-rate of 33.8 per 1000 live births based on a mean of 272.1 live births and 9.2 infant deaths for the ten year period. The infant death rates for England and Wales and for the administrative county were respectively during 1955, 24.9 and 18.4 per 1000 live births.

There were three infant deaths all due to prematurity, under 4 weeks of age; and between that age and one year two died from bronchopneumonia, and one from suffocation.

Death rate from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population for tuberculosis (0.1 per 1000) cancer (1.3 per 1000) and

pneumonia (0.4 per 1000). The proportional mortality rates of principal diseases (expressed as a proportion of the total deaths) during the year were : diseases of the heart and circulation, other than coronary disease, 20.7 per cent ; vascular lesions of nervous system 14.0 per cent ; cancer 14.7 per cent ; coronary disease 7.3 per cent ; influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis 7.3 per cent ; and tuberculosis 1.3 per cent.

The number of deaths at ages 65 years and over was 107 of which 36 occurred between the ages of 65 and 74 years, and 71 at 75 years and over.

The *incidence rate* per 1000 population of the following notifiable diseases in the Rural District during 1955 were whooping cough 0.8, scarlet fever 1.0 and measles 4.6.

Notifications of infectious diseases totalled 130 for the District during 1955.

Tuberculosis notifications which are included above numbered 11 during 1955 ; 10 were for the respiratory form of the disease.

257 children under 15 years of age were primarily inoculated against diphtheria during 1955. 132 of the number were under one year of age, and 90 between 1-5 years of age. In addition, 438 children under 15 years of age were re-inoculated and 432 of these were between the ages of 5-15 years.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation on the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1956.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	T. F. HARDING, M.S.I.A., Cert. San. Inspector and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	F. BOAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. San. Inspector and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.
Rodent Operator	R. RAISEY.

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts United Districts, viz. Amesbury R.D., Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and Marlborough M.B., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with welfare service for which it is mainly responsible.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector, together with his assistant, carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the Public Health and Housing Committee of the District Council.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	75828
Number of Parishes	25
Population mid-1955 as estimated by the Registrar General	17270
Number of inhabited houses (including 880 Council houses)	4030
Number of new houses erected in 1955 :—	
By Private Enterprise	15
By Local Authority	63
Rateable Value	£114304
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£474

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	171	123	294
Legitimate	165	119	284
Illegitimate	6	4	10
Still Births	3	2	5
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Live Birth Rate			17.7
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.0
Number of Deaths from all causes	71	79	150
Death Rate (corrected)			9.5
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.7
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	4	2	6
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births			20.4
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales			24.9

NOTE :

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1955 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,

1955

	<i>Pewsey R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	17.7	15.7	15.0
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	9.5	10.4	11.7
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 live births)	20.4	18.4	24.9

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT, 1946-55

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population	13520	13780	14320	14310	*17850	*18950	*16470	*16330	*16760	*17270
Live Births	291	327	332	278	282	315	304	293	299	294
	21.5	23.7	23.2	19.4	15.8	16.6	18.5	17.9	17.8	17.0
Still Births	4	3	5	4	7	2	2	6	6	5
	13.6	13.6	9.1	14.8	30.9	6.3	6.5	20.0	19.7	16.7
Total Deaths	166	152	171	158	141	176	153	135	159	150
	12.3	11.0	11.9	11.0	7.9	9.3	9.3	8.3	9.5	8.7
Infant Deaths.....	21	17	6	7	5	6	6	12	6	6
	72.2	51.9	18.0	25.2	17.7	19.0	19.7	40.9	20.1	20.4
Tuberculosis Deaths	4	7	6	5	6	3	2	2	2	2
	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cancer Deaths	22	23	24	23	21	18	17	15	25	22
	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.3
Pneumonia Deaths.....	7	13	6	4	6	12	7	10	13	7
	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4

* Includes armed forces as well as civilians

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of infective diseases notified in the Rural District during 1955 was 130 including 11 notifications in respect of tuberculosis. Of this number measles accounted for 80, whooping cough 13, scarlet fever 18, dysentery 4 and pneumonia 2. There was one notification in respect of poliomyelitis, and one for puerperal fever. The months of greatest incidence were April, November, May and March in that order ; and the greatest number were notified in the 5-10 year age group. There were no deaths from notifiable infectious diseases during 1955 in the Rural District.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 11 notifications in respect of tuberculosis, one of which was non-respiratory.

There were two deaths from tuberculosis during the year in the Rural District, both from the lung form of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at the welfare clinics, and at schools, under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County Medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

The number of children under one year old immunized during 1955 in the Rural District was 132 ; there were 294 births during the year. The total number primarily immunized under 15 years of age was 257. The following numbers were inoculated against diphtheria during the last ten years.

<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										Total
	1946	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	
Under 5	203	142	190	60	176	304	242	142	234	222	1915
5-15	19	20	142	29	42	34	43	22	46	35	432
Totals	222	162	332	89	218	338	285	164	280	257	2347

In addition 438 were re-inoculated during the year in the Rural District. The number of primary vaccinations performed against smallpox was 219, of which 189 was in respect of infants in the first year of life.

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

7

Age (years)

Totals

HOUSING

During 1955 the District Council provided 63 new houses, and private enterprise 15.

Since the inception of the improvement grants scheme in 1953, the Council had approved at the end of 1955 applications in respect of 154 properties ; and work on 95 of these had been completed at the end of the year. There is thus some gradual improvement of the standard of housing in the District.

Of the houses scheduled under the Slum Clearance programme it will be noted that 110 are classified as being unrepairable on economic and other grounds ; and 68, although defective, which could be re-conditioned at an "unreasonable" cost. An additional 110 unfit houses are scheduled in the survey which, since they are controlled by the War Department, would appear to be outside the provisions of the relevant Acts.

It will be noted from the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report that 526 dwellings were inspected during 1955 under the Public Health and Housing Acts ; and of that number 54 were found to be unfit for habitation as being dangerous or likely to be injurious to health ; while 28 were found to be in some respect not fit for habitation. Thus 82 or about 15 per cent of the dwellings inspected proved to be in some respect unsatisfactory ; but 15 of these were rendered fit as the result of representations informally.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year some progress under this heading was made in that the established supply at Burbage was extended to Easton Royal and Milton and also to supplement the Pewsey supply.

The needs of the Avon valley continue to be urgent in view of general pollution of existing shallow wells, and the earliest opportunity should be taken to implement the water supply scheme centred on Compton.

The principal water supplies are mostly controlled by chlorination but the non-public supplies are not so protected, and regular bacteriological examination is undertaken to ensure that a reasonable standard of purity is maintained, and gross pollution detected and controlled.

SEWERAGE

The nuisance from open drains originally intended for storm water and now carrying sewage effluent is unlikely to be abated until these are piped, preferably with a view to dovetailing into any future sewerage scheme ; and it is to be hoped that despite financial stringency measures can be taken in the not too far distant future to ameliorate these conditions where the urgency is greatest.

FOOD SUPERVISION

Approximately ten per cent of all inspections as detailed in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector can be classified under food

supervision, and the greater number of these were in respect of milk, which is sampled regularly and adequately.

Although no bowel infection occurred in the District during 1955 attributable to contaminated food, and thus far food hygiene may have been satisfactory during the year, there is generally still too much indifference on the part of the purveyor and consumer alike in the matter of hygienic handling of foodstuffs.

The year has seen the introduction of the new Food and Drugs Act, which is likely to be of the greatest assistance in negotiating improvements in the hygiene of food.

Food hygiene is a matter of cleanliness and training whose principles should be inculcated in the very young from the tenderest age.

CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1955

				M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	—	2	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	—	1	1
4	Diphtheria	....	....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	....	....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	—	—	—
8	Measles	....	....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....	2	—	2
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	....	....	2	1	3
12	„ „ breast	....	....	—	2	2
13	„ „ uterus	....	....	—	4	4
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	8	3	11
15	Leukaemia, aleukamia	....	....	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	....	....	—	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	6	15	21
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....	6	5	11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	1	1	2
20	Other heart disease	....	....	16	13	29
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....	3	15	18
22	Influenza	....	....	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia	....	....	5	2	7
24	Bronchitis	....	....	1	1	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	1	2	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	1	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	....	1	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	3	—	3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	....	....	3	—	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	9	5	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	—	—	—
34	All other accidents	....	....	2	2	4
35	Suicide	....	....	—	2	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	....	—	—	—
Total all causes				71	79	150

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PEWSEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

As mentioned in the Report for that year, 1954 brought about a number of changes in the scope and direction of the Department's work. The year just ended has seen a consolidation of these new activities. The trend towards greater centralisation of slaughtering of animals for human consumption has continued and very little Meat Inspection work has needed to be carried out by your Officers. As a result, more time has been available for increased activities in the fields of Housing, Improvement Grants, Water Sampling and Milk Sampling.

The number of milk samples taken during 1955 for biological examination has almost trebled as compared with those taken in 1954, and the number of water samples taken has been doubled.

In the body of the Report reference is made to the Council's Slum Clearance proposals which were submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government during 1955. These proposals represent the culmination of several years of survey work. It has been the Department's duty to implement the Council's policy with regard to the improvement of existing privately owned dwellings by means of Improvement Grants, and the figures given in the Report will show that the Council have every reason to be satisfied with the results of this policy.

The only aspect of Public Health which gives cause for concern is the various delays which beset the Council's plans for extending their main water and sewerage schemes. These delays have been beyond the Council's control, and it is to be hoped that the national financial situation will improve, not only because of its serious effects upon the country as a whole, but also because of its repercussions on local schemes of improvement in basic sanitation which are a matter of urgent public health importance.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Council, and my colleagues, both inside and outside the Public Health Department, for their support and assistance during the year.

*I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,*

T. F. HARDING.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

STAFF

Senior Sanitary Inspector	T. F. HARDING, M.S.I.A. (Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. as Sanitary Inspector and Certificate of the R.S.I. as Meat and Other Foods Inspector).
Additional Inspector	F. BOAM, M.S.I.A. (Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. as Sanitary Inspector and Certificate of the R.S.I. as Meat and Other Foods Inspector).
Clerical Assistant	L. T. JONES
Rodent Operator	P. N. RAISEY.

TABLE OF INSPECTION AND VISITS

Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	214
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	279
Moveable Dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Visits made by Inspectors re Pest Control	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	41
Visits made by Operator for survey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	580
Visits made by Operator for treatment	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	821
Building Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	263
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	36
Visits under Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	112
Visits under Housing Acts, 1936 to 1954	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	478
Overcrowding and Allocation of Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	305
Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	96
Housing Survey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	247
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	55
Slaughterhouse Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Visits to Butchers, Fishmongers, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Visits to Grocers and Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Visits to Food Preparing Premises Generally	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	55
Visits to Licensed Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Milk Sampling Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	211
Total Visits								3936

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1955

1. Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.
 - (a) By Local Authority 63
 - (b) Conversion of 2 Council Houses into 4 flats 4
 - (c) Private Enterprise 15

2.	Inspection of Dwellings during the year.	
(i)	Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts	87
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under Housing Act	439
(iii)	Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	54
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	28
3.	Remedy of defects by Informal Action.	
	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	15
4.	Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts.)	
(A)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936.	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	—
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	5
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	—
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(C)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Acts, 1936.	
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	3
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted	—
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed	—
	Number of closing orders made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1953....	4
(D)	Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(E)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as a result of premises having been made fit	—
5.	Housing Acts, 1936—Part iv. Overcrowding.	
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	15
(ii)	Number of cases discovered during year	3
(iii)	Number of cases abated during year	3

HOUSING

During the year, the survey of Slum Houses was completed, and after approval by the Council, the 5 year Programme was submitted to the Minister.

The slum clearance problem in the district is greatly aggravated by the large numbers of War Department owned houses which are unfit, and from which the Council are apparently expected to rehouse the occupants. The Council could replace in 5 years, with a normal building programme, all the unfit houses which are privately owned, but the War Department houses represent an added burden which will greatly tax the Council's resources. The position is greatly complicated by the fact that the War Department bear Crown Immunity in respect of these houses, and the Council cannot exercise the powers possessed by them under the Public Health and Housing Acts to ensure that the houses already scheduled are demolished, and that others are not allowed to fall into demolition category because of inadequate maintenance.

During the year, the Council continued their policy of assisting the modernisation of existing privately owned houses by means of Improvement Grants. Grants in respect of 77 houses were approved during 1955, and by the end of the year grants in respect of a total number of 154 houses had been approved since the inception of the Improvement Grant procedure, and of these, the improvement works to 95 houses had been completed. This is a creditable achievement considering that work did not really begin to get under way until 1953.

The impact of these grants on the district is not spectacular, since the houses are scattered throughout the district, but it should be borne in mind that if a modest average population of 3 persons per house is assumed, by the time that all the grants approved up to the end of the year are completed, some 462 persons will be enjoying the amenities bestowed by these improved houses: the population of a moderately sized village.

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBERS OF SLUM CLEARANCE HOUSES IN
THE PARISHES IN THE DISTRICT**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Category</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>W.D. Unfit Houses</i>
	5B	5A		
Altons	9	1	10	—
Burbage	14	6	20	—
Charlton	4	—	4	—
Chutes	1	2	3	—
Collingbourne Ducis	9	2	11	—
Collingbourne Kingston	8	5	13	—
Easton Royal	6	—	6	—
Enford and Chisenbury	10	4	14	8
Everleigh	3	—	3	2
Haxon and Fittleton	1	—	1	19
Ludgershall	10	3	13	—
Manningford	2	8	10	—
Milton Lilbourne	1	2	3	—
Netheravon	2	1	3	26
North Newnton	2	2	4	—
North Tidworth	—	—	—	53
Oare	—	1	1	—
Pewsey	8	13	21	—
Rushall	—	2	2	—
Upavon	9	5	14	2
Wootton Rivers	10	4	14	—
Woodborough	1	3	4	—
Wilsford	—	—	—	—
Wilcot	—	4	4	—
	110	68	178	110

NOTE : Houses in Category 5B are ones which it would be uneconomic and impracticable to recondition due to gross structural defects, congestion and other causes.

Houses in Category 5A are those which are unfit, but which could be reconditioned at unreasonable cost.

WATER SUPPLY

In my report on the year 1954 I referred to the importance of the regular sampling of water supplies to maintain a check on their purity. During that year the Public Health Department had endeavoured to take samples on a quarterly basis from supplies for which the Council was responsible. During 1955 the frequency was increased to once

every two months on a regular basis, and more frequently if circumstances demanded. This has resulted, of course, in an increase in the total number of samples taken from main or estate supplies as is shown below :—

1953—45 samples taken.

1954—95 samples taken.

1955—145 samples taken.

During the year, the larger main supplies could be said to have maintained a generally satisfactory degree of purity, and regular sampling enabled any contamination to be quickly detected and dealt with expeditiously, usually by adjustment of the chlorinator. But the great majority of the privately owned houses in the district outside the larger parishes, and of the small Council Estates in the small parishes derive their water from individual wells and bores, and, as will be seen from the results which follow this preamble, the water did not always reach a satisfactory standard of purity. In the case of the small Council Estates supplied with piped water from bore holes, it is often possible, if the supply gives cause for concern, to arrange for chlorination. This apparatus is expensive both to install and to maintain ; and it is to be hoped that the time will not be long delayed when main water, derived from a source of unimpeachable purity, and safeguarded by chlorination, will be available to all the parishes within the district.

During 1955 further progress was made with the Council's district water scheme. Connections to houses in the parish of Burbage were completed and some progress was made in extending the mains from Burbage through the parishes of Easton Royal and Milton to link up with the Pewsey water supply, which has given signs of failure in recent years, due no doubt to the increasing demands that are placed upon it.

Some progress was made in the planning of the Avon Valley scheme which involves sinking a deep bore at Compton and the construction of a surface reservoir on Pewsey Hill, the scheme to supply the parishes of Netheravon, Fittleton, Enford and Upavon. This scheme is most urgently required, in view of the very high incidence of pollution in the many surface wells which are the sole water supply of most of the inhabitants of the Avon Valley. It is feared that the recent national financial crisis will interfere with this urgent public health project, and we can only hope that this period of financial stringency will not last too long. Details of the Water services to individual parishes and the results of samples are given below :—

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

PEWSEY

The water is obtained from a deep well and is chlorinated : it is alkaline, with a PH value of 7.2 and a total hardness of 21.8. 95% of the houses in the parish are connected to the supply and an estimated 1% of these rely on standpipes.

7 bacteriological samples and 1 chemical were taken : all were satisfactory.

LUDGERSHALL

The water is purchased in bulk from the Andover R.D.C. and is chlorinated: it is alkaline, with a PH value of 7.4, and a total hardness of 23.6. It is estimated that 95% of the houses in the parish obtain water from this source, and of these 1% rely on standpipes.

1 chemical sample was taken and proved satisfactory, and 5 bacteriological samples, of which 3 showed minimal non-faecal contamination, the others being satisfactory.

CHUTE

The supply for this parish is derived from the same source as that for Ludgershall, and with the exception of some isolated houses, the majority of properties in the parish are served by the main.

1 sample was taken for bacteriological examination and proved satisfactory.

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS AND KINGSTON

The water is obtained from a bore hole and is chlorinated. It has a PH value of 7.3. The total hardness is 24.4. It is estimated that 90% of the houses in the two parishes are connected to the supply.

4 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, 3 of which were satisfactory and 1 of which showed slight non-faecal contamination. 1 chemical sample was taken and proved satisfactory.

WOOTTON RIVERS

The water is obtained from a deep well: it is alkaline (PH 7.3) and has a total hardness of 24.6. 46 houses of a total of 58 are supplied from the main, some of which, however, rely on standpipes.

6 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, 5 being satisfactory and 1 showing slight non-faecal contamination. The 1 chemical sample taken during the year was satisfactory.

BURBAGE

The supply for this parish is obtained from the Collingbourne source. During the year the work of connecting houses to the new mains was completed.

3 bacteriological samples were taken, of which 2 were satisfactory and 1 showed slight non-faecal contamination.

EVERLEIGH

The water supply for this village is obtained from a War Department owned source.

6 bacteriological samples were taken, of which 5 were satisfactory and 1 showed slight non-faecal contamination.

OTHER WATER SUPPLIES

ENFORD

The majority of the War Department property and the Council Estate is supplied from a War Department main. The water is chlorinated.

6 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, of which 5 were satisfactory and 1 showed slight non-faecal contamination.

COOMBE

The Council houses and all the private houses in this hamlet are supplied from a private source.

3 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, 1 being satisfactory and 2 showing non-faecal contamination.

NETHERAVON

The water is obtained from War Department mains which serve certain War Department cottages and the Council houses. It is chlorinated.

6 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, the results being satisfactory. 1 chemical sample was taken during the year and this also proved satisfactory.

HAXON AND FITTLETON

The great majority of houses in this parish rely upon individual wells.

The water from the well at the Council houses was sampled 6 times during the year and only 2 of these samples reached an acceptable standard of purity, illustrating the necessity for a mains supply in this area of the Avon Valley.

NORTH TIDWORTH

War Department mains supply the majority of houses in the village, including the Council Estate. The supply is chlorinated.

6 bacteriological samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory.

ALTON BARNES

Part of the village and the Council Estate are supplied from a private estate piped supply.

6 bacteriological samples were taken, 3 showing slight non-faecal contamination, 3 being satisfactory.

ALTON PRIORS

Part of this village is served from the same supply as that which supplies Alton Barnes. During 1954, the water from the communal well serving the Council houses gave cause for concern, and as a result arrangements were made to feed the Council houses from the private estate supply previously referred to.

6 bacteriological samples were taken and all of them were satisfactory.

EASTON ROYAL

The post-war Council houses and some privately owned houses derive their water from a private piped supply.

6 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from this supply, of which 1 was satisfactory, the others showing non-faecal pol-

lution in varying degrees.

The need for the extension of the Burbage and Collingbourne scheme to Easton Royal is further underlined by the results obtained from the well which supplies the pre-war Council houses.

5 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, 3 of which showed non-faecal contamination.

MILTON LILBOURNE

Part of the parish is served by a private supply which is unchlorinated. The post-war Council Estate derives its water from a bore hole, also unchlorinated.

7 bacteriological samples were taken from this bore hole during the year, of which 4 were satisfactory, the others showing slight non-faecal contamination.

The old Council houses derive their water from a communal pump.

6 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, of which 5 were satisfactory.

BOTTLESFORD

The post-war Council house Estate is supplied with unchlorinated water from a bore hole.

7 bacteriological samples were taken, 6 being satisfactory, 1 showing slight non-faecal contamination.

Water from a bore hole is supplied to the post-war Council Estate.

7 bacteriological samples were taken from this source during the year, 5 being satisfactory and 2 showing slight non-faecal contamination.

UPAVON

A few houses in this parish are connected to a private supply, the remainder relying upon wells. The Council houses are supplied with unchlorinated water from a bore-hole.

6 samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, 4 proved satisfactory and 2 showed non-faecal contamination.

WILCOT

There is a private piped supply which serves a small number of houses in the village.

2 bacteriological samples were taken from this private supply during the year, 1 of which was satisfactory, the other showing moderate non-faecal contamination.

Both the pre-war and post-war Council houses are provided with unchlorinated water from a bore hole.

6 bacteriological samples were taken from this bore hole during the year and all were satisfactory.

WOODBOROUGH

All the houses in the parish are served by private wells, with the exception of the post-war Council houses which derive unchlorinated water from a bore hole.

6 bacteriological samples were taken from this bore hole during the year, 2 showing slight non-faecal contamination, the remainder being satisfactory.

In the case of the pre-war Council houses at Woodborough, the supply is derived from a communal well.

6 bacteriological samples were taken from this supply during the year, of which 3 were satisfactory and 3 showed slight non-faecal contamination.

NORTH NEWNTON

The pre-war Council houses are served by a communal well.

7 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, of which only 3 were satisfactory, the remainder showing moderate non-faecal contamination.

WILSFORD

Some 90% of the houses in this parish are served by a private estate supply. 2 bacteriological samples were taken from this supply during the year, 1 of which showed gross non-faecal contamination.

CHARLTON

Here again, most of the houses in this parish derive their water from a private piped supply.

2 bacteriological samples were taken from this supply, of which both showed slight non-faecal contamination.

RUSHALL

A similar private piped supply serves approximately 90% of the houses in the parish.

3 bacteriological samples were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE

During the year no major works of sewerage have been undertaken by the Council. More houses were connected to the sewers in the parish of East Everleigh during the year, although some houses still remain to be connected.

The great majority of houses outside the sewered parishes rely on bucket closets, but the good work that the Council has done in implementing the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, have resulted in a number of houses being provided with septic tanks, thus bringing the benefits of modern sanitation to many families.

I referred in my report of 1954 to the open drainage ditches in the parishes of Collingbourne Kingston, Charlton, Upavon and Netheravon, and I must again refer to them, as they continue to cause the Department a great deal of concern and trouble, and are the origin of quite justified complaints concerning the smell which emanates from them. Steps were taken during the year to improve the cleansing of the drainage ditches in Upavon and I have to report that the nuisance from this ditch has been much abated.

The origin of these nuisances arises in the conversion of these ditches, which were originally intended for surface water only, into drainage channels for sink wastes and the like, and there is a very grave risk that the installation of piped water in certain parishes will result in contamination of roadside ditches in those parishes by the effluent from sink wastes. The Department has, during the year, taken steps to ensure that where sinks are installed in houses which are freshly connected to the main water services, that the wastes from these sinks are discharged into properly constructed soakaways and not into the roadside surface water ditches. In the long run, however, no really radical improvement will be made in the large parishes until such time as main sewers are installed.

FOOD INSPECTION

MEAT

During the year very little slaughtering of animals for human consumption has taken place in the one licensed slaughterhouse, which is situated in Pewsey. This is due no doubt to the proximity of the large factory slaughter-houses which have been erected at Salisbury and Swindon, and from which come the bulk of the meat supplies for the district.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district and I have to report that during the year it was satisfactorily conducted.

A table showing the number of carcasses inspected and condemned and the reasons for the condemnation follow :—

MEAT INSPECTION—CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1955—SINCE DECONTROL

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1	—	7	19	18
Number Inspected	1	—	7	19	18
All Diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	2
All Diseases except Tuberculosis Part or Organ condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis only whole Carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only Part or Organ condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Note : (Since percentages would be unrealistic in relation to the small numbers of animals killed, they are not quoted).

FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY

The following table gives details of food trades carried on in the district. It shows that they are generally of the types and numbers that would be expected in a district of this size, the only unusual feature being the large N.A.A.F.I. Bakery which is situated at Ludgershall. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year which were attributable to bad food handling but, as I stated in my report for the previous year, this should cause no complacency either amongst the food handlers and traders concerned or in the Department. A great deal of scope exists for the education of food handlers in the subject of Food Hygiene, but unfortunately, owing to pressure of other work, it was not possible to continue the highly successful series of Food Hygiene Lectures which were given to interested bodies during 1954. I would, however, say that it seems to me that more might be made of this matter by teaching the elementary rules of food hygiene to children of school leaving age, since there must be, in a district with a fairly static population and static types of employment, a number of children who regularly leave school to enter the food trade and much good would be done, I am quite sure, by teaching food hygiene to these children before they take up the trade. It is expected that the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, will come into force early in 1956, and concurrently there will come into force new Food Hygiene Regulations which have been the subject of prolonged and acrimonious discussion. It is to be hoped that these new Regulations will give increased enforcement powers to Local Authorities and that these increased powers, together with educational activities, will result in an improvement in food handling in the district.

Butchers	....	....	....	....	9
Bakers	....	....	....	....	13
Grocers	....	....	....	....	30
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	5
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	3
Cafes	....	....	....	....	14
Fishfryers...	....	....	....	....	4
Food Factories	....	....	....	....	3
Licensed Houses	....	....	....	....	44
General Stores	....	....	....	....	17
Registered Dairies	....	....	....	....	4
Registered Distributors	....	....	....	....	11
Registered Premises (Food and Drugs Act, 1938) Section 14.					
For the storage and sale of ice-cream (prepacked)	....	....	....	....	44
For the Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	....	....	....	....	1
For Fishfrying	....	....	....	....	4
For Sausage Manufacturing	....	....	....	....	5

MILK

During the year the programme of regular milk sampling undertaken in 1954 was improved and extended to the extent whereby a large proportion of the Department's time is now devoted to this type of sampling. There can be no question, however, that the time thus spent is well spent, especially as the samples are examined for the presence of tubercle bacillus, in addition to tests for adequate pasteurisation and cleanliness of production. It is true that increases in the numbers of tuberculin tested herds and in supplies of Pasteurised milk have tended to reduce the risk of infected milk being sold to the public, but it must, at all times be borne in mind that udder infections in cows, and bowel and other infections in milk handlers can flare up in a very short space of time, and that in country districts especially, a very large amount of milk is still consumed raw. Milk sampling provides a measure of protection against the spread of such infections and in addition, is the only effective guide as to the bacterial cleanliness of the milk producers' methods, and the cleanliness of his utensils and equipment.

Comparative figures of milk samples taken during the year, together with those of 1954 are given below :—

	1954	1955
Samples subjected to Methylene Blue test	81	99
Samples subjected to Phosphatase test		87
Samples failing Methylene Blue or Phosphatase test	19	13
Samples subjected to biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacillus	45	120
Samples showing Positive T.B. reaction	Nil	Nil

RODENT CONTROL

For the first year since 1951 the number of properties treated showed a decline from the previous year's total. In 1955, 205 properties of all kinds were disinfested as opposed to 317 in 1954.

This decline is thought to be due to a decrease in the rat population in the district, and this in turn is a reflection of a probable decrease in the rat population over the country as a whole. A number of contributory factors are probably involved, including the outbreak of myxomatosis which decimated the rabbit population and thus robbed several of the natural enemies of rats of an alternative source of food. In addition, there can be no question that the intensive anti-rat campaign carried out over the last few years has had a salutary effect.

No test baiting was carried out in the Pewsey and Ludgershall sewerage systems during the year, since it was felt by the Department and this view was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, that the sewers had remained rat free for such a long time that a biennial test baiting would suffice.

FACTORIES

Number of Factories without mechanical power 18

Number of Factories with mechanical power 34

6 visits of inspection were made to factories during the year and any defects found therein were dealt with informally.

*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,
Marlborough.*